

**Heber City Corporation
City Council Meeting
May 16, 2013**

4:35 p.m.

BUDGET AND WORK MEETING

The Council of Heber City, Wasatch County, Utah, met in **Budget and Work Meeting** on May 16, 2013, in the City Council Chambers at 75 North Main Street, Heber City, Utah.

Present:	Council Members	Robert Patterson Alan McDonald Benny Mergist (arrived at 4:41) Jeffery Bradshaw Erik Rowland
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Excused:	Mayor	David R. Phillips
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Also Present:	City Manager City Recorder Chief of Police	Mark K. Anderson Michelle Kellogg David Booth
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Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland opened the meeting and excused Mayor Phillips. He noted that Council Member Mergist would arrive late.

Social Hall: Anderson indicated that he received information on the application for financial aid, which required seismic upgrades if aid were to be awarded. Council Member McDonald asked what the maximum amount of the aid would be. Anderson stated this was a 75% / 25% grant. Anderson commented he did not know what other projects would compete for the grant, but only one project would be funded from one source and another source responded that they had money to grant. Anderson indicated the next step was to find out what the seismic upgrade costs would be before deciding how to proceed.

Council Member Mergist arrived at 4:41p.m.

Contribution to Heber Valley Historic Railroad Authority: Council Member McDonald stated he would abstain from the discussion because his daughter worked at the railroad. Council Member Bradshaw expressed concern about the debt of the railroad and didn't think a contribution from the City would help the situation. Council Member Mergist indicated he was not in favor of giving a donation either. He suggested that the railroad shut down for a year and make some money by doing shop work which could help restore the steam engines. Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland explained he sent out an email with Council Member Mergist's suggestion regarding the train last year. Council Member Mergist stated last year he supported a one-time donation to the railroad, and he still held firm to that commitment. Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland did not favor a contribution either. Anderson stated other entities in the valley considered that Heber had the most to gain from keeping the train in operation and if Heber pulled its support, it

would be less likely that the County or Midway would contribute either. Council Member Patterson went on record as supporting the train and was not in favor of shutting it down.

Public Safety Building: Anderson stated he and Chief Booth met with an architect that had recently planned several public safety buildings. The architect estimated the average cost per square foot would be \$175. For a 22,000 square foot building, Anderson felt a \$5 million estimate was reasonable and it would include furniture, parking lots and landscaping.

Anderson explained the Ballard Spahr resolution that was on the regular meeting agenda tonight would allow the City to be reimbursed for prior expenses incurred if or when a bond was passed. Council Member McDonald suggested applying for the CIB grant and then when the grant was secured, the facts would be shared with the community. He preferred that the question be on the ballot so residents would have a say as to whether or not they wanted a new building. Council Member Patterson indicated whether a new building was approved or not the City needed one. Council Member Bradshaw asked if the whole amount would be loaned if the CIB loan was approved. Anderson asserted that the City would receive the entire amount of the cost of the project at 1.5% interest. He added that the City needed to find out what the timeframe would be for getting the question on the ballot. He stressed that the Council should be unified in supporting the project. Anderson said some type of tax increase would be necessary to support this debt.

Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland asked if the intent of the ballot was to educate or to seek direction. He asserted that it would be wise to follow the decision made at the ballot box. Council Member McDonald stated that the ballot would be to educate and seek the public's opinion. Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland thought that would be what a public hearing would accomplish. Council Member McDonald wanted to see evidence that would justify a tax increase before making that decision. Anderson confirmed that the Council did not want a tax increase this year and wanted to wait until next year to see the facts. The Council was in agreement.

Staffing: Anderson indicated he would request a finance director for the fiscal year 2014-15. The Council agreed to budget the position next year or amend the budget as needed for this coming year.

Sidewalks and Fences: Anderson passed around a picture of bad sidewalk and stated the City only budgeted for new sidewalk from 100 West to 500 West. But there was also a need to replace one half of a block of sidewalk from Main Street to 100 West, which would cost an additional \$5,000. The Council approved new sidewalk for this block.

Anderson noted the Muirfield Trail was completed. There was an access point to the park on the west side of Spring Creek Canal. The HOA asked that a fence be erected to divide the residents' property and the park. The Council agreed to the additional cost for a split rail fence.

Playground Equipment Disposal: Anderson commented the Main Street Park playground equipment had been disassembled and the salvaged equipment included swings, the big slide and a half dome climbing apparatus. He asked for authority to put a notice in the newspaper for people to bid on these items. The Council agreed to sell the equipment to the highest bidder.

High School Graduation Donation Request: Anderson stated he received a phone call from Melanie Jepperson requesting donations for the high school graduation party. The Council preferred that private individuals donate to these events.

Veteran's Memorial: Anderson indicated it had been difficult to get information from the committee for the bid spec, thus putting the project out to bid was delayed. He noted some items would be sourced by the City and would not be included in the bid document. Council Member McDonald read a prepared statement:

I would like to make it very clear that I am a true supporter of the veterans that have served our country. They have literally sacrificed everything to maintain the freedoms we enjoy. The City needs to support them in any way they can, but building an elaborate memorial to honor them at the expense of taxpayers is not the most correct way.

The City does not have the money to pay for such an elaborate memorial as it is currently proposed. The City currently has to bond for other infrastructure projects and we have had to cut back on needed equipment because we do not have the funds in the general accounts to cover their purchases. We are taking funds from other more needed projects and equipment to build a Veterans Memorial that has gotten out of line in the size of the structure and costs in the Heber City Cemetery. I would support some type of memorial if the project was downsized to the point where the costs were under \$100,000 with 50% participation from the community, or if the City gave money to support the County memorial in Midway. It should be a community sponsored memorial to the veterans.

Council Member Mergist confirmed that the Council approved \$1,000 to the County Veteran's Memorial. Anderson affirmed the money had been given to the County. Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland asked if the lack of progress from the Veteran's Memorial Committee changed the Council's opinion on supporting it. He suggested giving the committee a deadline of 60 days to get the bid out or the Council would pull the funding. None of the Council disagreed to that suggestion.

Security System: Anderson passed out an estimate for a security system for the Public Works building, the Cemetery, the City Hall, Animal Services and the Airport. He stated this security system company worked with Heber Light and Power Company, the Wasatch School District and the County. Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland asked where vandalism had been a problem. It was indicated that the City parks and water tanks received the most vandalism. It was also noted that employee theft had occurred at Public Works.

Council Member Mergist stated he would like to monitor the buildings in the evenings. Anderson stated he would inquire about the different features of the equipment associated with the bid and would focus on the Public Works building first. Chief Booth commented that it would be beneficial to have cameras along Main Street to observe traffic and the storefronts.

Credit Cards: Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland requested that credit cards be accepted online. The Council agreed to explore offering payment by credit cards for all services except building permits.

Live Stream for Council Meetings: Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland asked about live streaming the Council meetings to the internet. He stated the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) had vendor lists. Anderson stated staff could get some quotes on that service.

Discuss Business License Study Update: Anderson stated in response to interest in having a business license study performed, he obtained a few sample requests for proposals from other cities. The Council agreed to include \$8,000 in the budget for a study.

A future budget meeting was deemed unnecessary.

Council Member McDonald asked if the budget could be presented piece by piece for a vote or was it presented as “all or nothing.” Anderson stated a Council member could present his argument for or against an item by amendment, but three votes would be needed to pass it.

Discuss City Logo Contest Results and Project: Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland stated the committee met and the four designs in the packet were the favorites. The committee was hesitant to choose a winner until the City image was defined. He suggested hiring a professional to help brand the City. Council Member McDonald felt none of the designs reflected Heber, but the Council should pick a winner. Council Member Mergist suggested that Mt. Timpanogos with the valley under it would reflect the City well. Council Member Patterson agreed. Another topic with the committee was the use of the word “corporation” in the City name. The committee members felt “corporation” should not be the focus when reading the city’s name. It was agreed to award a first place, second place and third place from the four finalists, with each receiving \$100, and to hire a graphic artist up to \$3,000.

Discuss Local Bidder Incentive: Council Member Patterson wanted to leave the City policy as is. Council Member Mergist felt having a local bidder incentive was scary. Council Member McDonald thought the incentive would keep City money in the valley and local companies would then be able to hire more people. Council Member Mergist was worried the City would open itself up to lawsuits. Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland felt it would work better with larger cities, but with smaller cities people would perceive a good-ole-boy system at work. Council Member Mergist stated he would agree to adopt the County policy since it had been proved, but was not in favor of creating a policy from scratch. He said with regard to clothing purchases made by the City, he would prefer to order from local merchants. Council Member Bradshaw felt it was good to shop locally, but a policy giving preference had its problems. Mayor Pro Tempore Rowland stated the County ordinance would be crafted to address the concerns of the Council, and then brought to the next work meeting.

Chief Booth stated the Police Department could not find a home for the K-9 Kaos, so it was sold to Jason Bateman for \$1.00.

Anderson noted the upcoming Memorial Day program at the Event Center, which included a free pancake breakfast.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Michelle Kellogg, City Recorder